

An Easy Read guide to...

# the **Lead Professional**



January 2020

The lead professional is part of Getting it right for every child.



There is a way of working for people who work with children, young people or young adults.



The way of working has been brought in to help child in Scotland have a good life.



It does not change how parents should look after their child.



But it does change how people who work with you and your child can help.

People who work with you and your child are people like

- doctors
- nurses
- teachers
- social workers.



When these people talk to you about your child they will probably talk about this way of working.

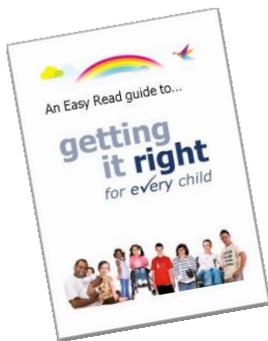
**getting  
it right**  
*for every child*

This way of working is called **Getting it right for every child**. This is sometimes shortened to **GIRFEC**.



One part of **Getting it right for every child** is called the lead professional.

This booklet is about the lead professional and what they do.



There is also an Easy Read booklet about other parts of **Getting it right for every child**. This gives information on wellbeing and the contact or named person.

## What is a lead professional?



A lead professional is someone who helps to organise a plan to offer joined up support for a child, young person or young adult and their family.

## What does a lead professional do?



Some children get lots of support from different services or professionals that other children don't need.

For example, your child might get support from



- doctors and nurses at hospital if they have complicated or serious health conditions



- special teachers if they need extra help at school



- a social worker if they or their family need extra help.



A lead professional is 1 person who helps to plan for and organise all the support.



A lead professional helps you to make sure all the people who support your child work well together.

## Who gets a lead professional?

Not everyone has a lead professional.

You will only have a lead professional if your child gets support from a number of professionals or services that is written into a joined up plan.

## Who is my family's lead professional?



Your lead professional will be someone who works with your child, young person or young adult.

They will probably be someone like a

- nurse
- teacher
- social worker.

Your lead professional should be someone who knows you and your child well.



You and your child can have a say in who your lead professional is.

The organisation in charge of the joined up plan should agree who the lead professional should be, to make sure they are the best person to get the job done.



If your child needs joined up planning for a long time, the lead professional might change as your child grows up.



For example

When a child is young their lead professional might be a community nurse.



When the child starts school their lead professional might be a teacher or a social worker.

## How does a lead professional organise support?



Your child will have a plan about all their joined up support.

Your lead professional will help to organise the plan.



There is an Easy Read booklet about joined up planning for children, young people and young adults.

It has more information about how joined up planning works.

This revised guide was produced by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE).

The ALLIANCE has been funded by the Scottish Government to run a project to help parents, carers and children understand Getting it right for every child. The project is called “Getting to Know GIRFEC: what Getting It Right For Every Child means for children and young people who are disabled or who live with long term conditions”.

This Easy Read guide forms part of the project and has been designed to be accessible to parents who have learning difficulties. It is not a full explanation of the law or GIRFEC policy.

<https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/resources/getting-to-know-getting-it-right-for-every-child-adult-easy-read-guides/>

Registered in Scotland No307731 Charity Number SC07475

The ALLIANCE is supported by a grant from the Scottish Government

